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(c) In 1927-28 all the fuel coupes in the Tiruvannamalai Range were sold in one lot to the Co-operative Labour Union. The Government understand that the Co-operative Labour Union is selling fuel at rates lower than those of other private contractors.

(d) & (e) The fuel coupes of each felling series, six in number, will be sold separately in public auction in 1928-29 and thereafter.

Education

Educational concessions to depressed-class students in Malabar.

*1841 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in Malabar some special scholarships and fee remissions are set apart for the students of the depressed classes, and if so, what is the number of those scholarships and fee remissions, how many of these were awarded in 1926-27 and 1927-28; and

(b) what is the number of the general scholarships allotted for Malabar and out of them, how many were awarded to Adi-Dravida students in the current year and what is the number of Adi-Dravida students who applied for scholarships from Malabar this year?

A.—(a) No scholarships are earmarked for award to pupils of the Malabar district. The following scholarships have been instituted in the Department of Public Instruction for the exclusive benefit of pupils belonging to depressed classes in the Presidency:—

(i) Eighteen collegiate scholarships.

(ii) Sixteen scholarships and an equal number of fee remissions commencing from the I form and continuing throughout the secondary school course, the value of the scholarships being Rs. 2-8-0 a month when held in forms I to III and Rs. 5, Rs. 6 and Rs. 7 a month in forms IV, V and VI respectively.

(iii) Twenty-seven scholarships of Rs. 3 each a month commencing in standard VI and renewable in standards VII and VIII of higher elementary schools.

The award of these scholarships is regulated by the orders of the Director of Public Instruction according to the needs of districts. Full details of the manner in which the scholarships were awarded in 1926-27 and 1927-28 are not available with Government.

The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 45 of the Administration Report of the Labour Department for 1926-27 for particulars of the scholarships awarded by the Commissioner of Labour for the depressed classes. Districtwar information is not available.

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(*b*) The number of general scholarships allotted for Malabar were as follows :—

	Higher Elementary.	Secondary commencing in Form I.	Secondary commencing in Form IV.
1926–27	1	22	6
1927–28	1	22	6

Information on the other points is not available.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Is there any objection to those scholarships being awarded by areas?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

Medical

Working hours of the General Hospital, Madras.

*1842 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the working hours of the in-patient department of the General Hospital were from 7 to 12 p.m. some years ago and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. now ;

(*b*) why this change was necessitated in the working hours of the in-patient department of the General Hospital, while in all other medical institutions, both in the City and outside, the morning working hours are from 7 a.m. to 12 noon ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have obtained expert opinion as to whether it is conducive to the well-being of the patients to be operated during the hot hours of the day especially in a tropical climate ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The information has been called for.
(*c*) No.

Grievances of the nurses in the Madras General Hospital.

*1843 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the long working hours, the prolonged night duty and other grievances of nurses in the Madras General Hospital referred to in the statement of Mr. Fenner Brockway in the papers ; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have taken any action on the question raised in the statement ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have perused the statement referred to.

(*b*) The Government are having the points raised examined.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know whether these nurses are having long working hours in the day and long hours of night duty? Are the Government aware of that?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I cannot exactly say."